

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 130877

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US, OVIP (BRZEZINSKI, ZBIGNIEW)

SUBJECT: THE KIM DONG-JO PROBLEM AND DR. BRZEZINSKI'S
VISIT TO KOREA

TOKYO FOR HOLBROOKE AND GLEYSTEN PRIOR TO A.M. DEPARTURE

REF: (A) SEOUL 4332, (B) STATE 127755, (C) SEOUL 4275
(NOTAL)

1. WE ARE SURPRISED AT ROKG INCLUSION OF FORMER AMBASSADOR
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KIM DONG-JO IN LUNCHEON GUEST LIST FOR PRESIDENT PARK'S
LUNCHEON MAY 25 FOR BRZEZINSKI (REF A). THIS IS POLITI-
CALLY QUITE IMPOSSIBLE FOR US AT THE VERY TIME OF
CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS REGARDING
REQUIREMENTS FOR HIS TESTIMONY ON ALLEGATIONS OF PAYOFFS
TO CONGRESSMEN IN THIS COUNTRY. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE ROK
PREROGATIVE OF DETERMINING GUEST LIST, DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS
KIM DONG-JO'S INCLUSION TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

2. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER SHOULD URGENTLY CONVEY OUR CONCERNS THROUGH MOST APPROPRIATE CHANNEL, NOTING THAT, WHILE WE DO NOT PRECLUDE KIM DONG-JO'S INCLUSION IN A PRIVATE MEETING TO DISCUSS HOW THE ROKG MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE CONTINUING NEED TO CLEAR UP THE CONGRESSIONAL

SCANDALS, WE COULD NOT AT THE PRESENT TIME ACCEPT HIS PRESENCE AS A GUEST IN THE OFFICIAL ROKG LUNCHEON FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI.

3. THE HIRC IS STILL WORKING ON MARK-UP OF THE KIM DONG-JO RESOLUTION AS OF THIS MESSAGE FILING. HOWEVER, JAWORSKI PRESSED THE COMMITTEE HARD PRIVATELY THIS MORNING FOR STIFF LANGUAGE, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM HAS BEEN INTENSIFIED BY WASHINGTON POST LEAD STORY MAY 23 REPORTING JAWORSKI'S ALLEGATION THAT BASED ON QUOTE INFORMATION THAT WE CANNOT NOW DISCLOSE UNQUOTE AS MANY AS TEN SITTING CONGRESSMEN MAY HAVE ACCEPTED MONEY FROM KIM DONG-JO. THE POST FURTHER SUGGESTS THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE HIRC ITSELF ARE UNDER SUSPICION. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION FROM THE COMMITTEE AS OF NOON MAY 23, THERE APPEARS NOW A GOOD PROSPECT THAT THE RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLY SOFTENED IN WORDING FROM THE ORIGINAL DRAFT, MAY STILL CONTAIN REFERENCE TO FUNDS CUT-

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OFF UNLESS KIM DONG-JO TESTIFIES UNDER OATH. THE DEPARTMENT HAS AGAIN INFORMED THE COMMITTEE AT A HIGH LEVEL THAT WE CANNOT SUPPORT SUCH LANGUAGE.

4. THE INFORMATION CONVEYED IN REF (B) REGARDING THE INTENSIFIED JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INTEREST IN KIM DONG-JO WAS NOT MEANT TO SUGGEST ANY SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS OR ACTIONS AT THIS STAGE. HOWEVER, IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE INCREASING REALITY HERE THAT THE KIM DONG-JO ISSUE, JUST LIKE THE TONGSUN PARK ISSUE BEFORE IT, IS NOT GOING TO GO QUIETLY AWAY. THE POLITICAL STAKES ARE INCREASING FOR BOTH THE ROKG AND OURSELVES TO TRY TO FIND SOME WAY TO REACH A SATISFACTORY ACCOMMODATION WHICH PROTECTS ROK SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERNATIONAL PRECEDENT UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION RULES.

5. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE CURRENT ACTIONS IN THE HOUSE IN RESPONSE TO JAWORSKI'S DEMANDS ARE NOT HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD AND MAY FURTHER COMPLICATE THE PROSPECTS FOR ROKG COOPERATION. THE KOREAN EMBASSY, ACTING UNDER INTRUCTIONS, OFFICIALLY TODAY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HIRC MONDAY, BUT STATED THAT ANY DEMAND IN THE RESOLUTION FOR

TESTIMONY UNDER OATH WOULD INHIBIT A CONSTRUCTIVE
RESPONSE BY THE ROKG. WHETHER OR NOT SUCH MAXIMUM DEMANDS
CAN BE MET, HOWEVER, THE NEED FOR SOME FURTHER GESTURE
OF ASSISTANCE BY THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS URGENT.

6. ROK EMBASSY CONFIDENTIALLY STATED MAY 23 THAT
KIM DONG-JO WOULD SHORTLY BE REMOVED FROM HIS OFFICIAL
POSITION AT THE BLUE HOUSE. THIS COULD BE USEFUL PRELUDE

TO FURTHER ACTION MAKING HIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE, BUT
BY ITSELF IT WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMPACT HERE.

7. WE DO NOT WISH THIS ISSUE TO DOMINATE BRZEZINSKI VISIT
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TO EXCLUSION OF BROADER-BASED DIALOGUE NEEDED AT THIS
JUNCTURE. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT IT BE DISCUSSED
CANDIDLY AND ROKG COOPERATION BE SOUGHT IN LIGHT OF THE
INABILITY TO PURGE THIS PROBLEM IN ANY OTHER SATISFACTORY
MANNER. WE LEAVE MANNER FOR DOING THIS TO YOUR COLLECTIVE
JUDGMENT. VANCE

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